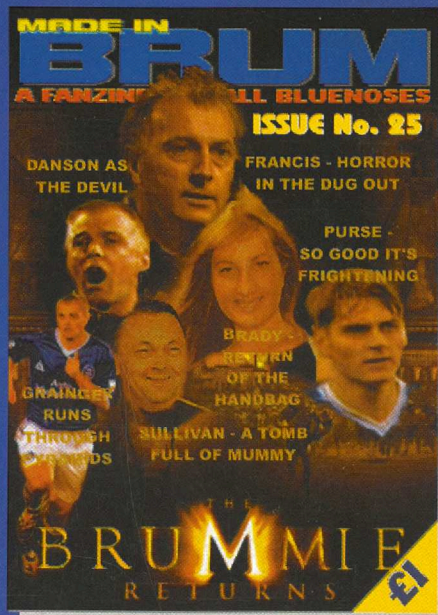
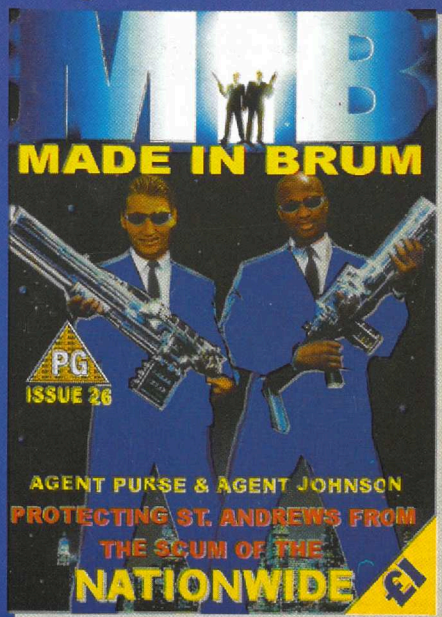


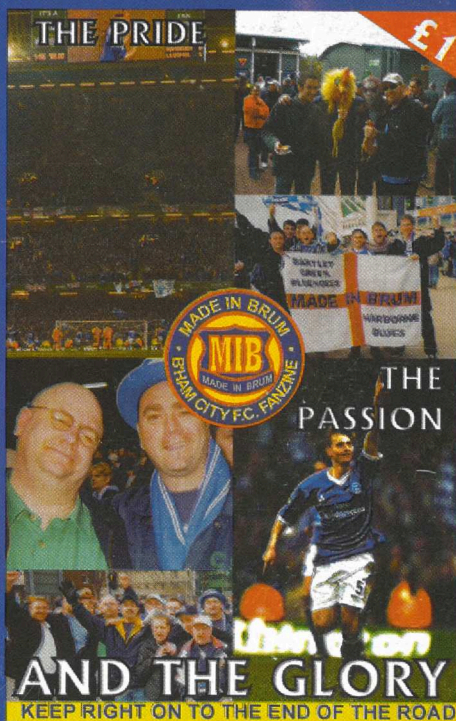
BACK ISSUES



If your missing one it's easy to get hold of that issue



Have you missed a back issue of MIB? if so why not get the full collection. from issue 1 through to the New Colour issue (and the Cup specials) are available.



PLAYOFF SPECIAL

Either come and see me, Dave (by Kingston - Cov Road) and I'll take your order. Email your requirements to dltblue@thefreeinternet.co.uk and I'll bring the issue/issues that you want to the next home game. Or write to

MIB, PO Box 8731, Birmingham

MADE IN **BRUM**

a bluenose fanzine

THIS HUGHES
IS BETTER
THAN THAT
OTHER HUGHES

110% unofficial 110% Behind Birmingham City
ISSUE No. 27



KEEP RIGHT ON TO THE END OF THE ROAD

As you go through life, it's a long, long road, There'll be joy's and sorrows too. As we journey on, we will sing this song For the boys in royal blue. We're often partisan, la, la, la, We will journey on, la, la, la.

Keep right on to the end of the road, Keep right on to the end. Though the way be long, Let your hearts be strong, Keep right on to the end. Though you're tired and weary, Still journey on, Till you come to your happy abode, With all our love, we'll be dreaming of. Will be there, WHERE? At the end of the Road. Birmingham! Birmingham!



CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are very welcome, while we do have the right to edit any submissions. But please do not hesitate in sending in 'stuff' If you Agree/Disagree? with anything you have read in this mag, or there is something you think we could do better. Or perhaps something we are doing right? just write to: see above.

Or email us at:-

dltblue@thefreeinternet.co.uk

If you have chosen to Buy 'Made in Brum' thanks very much. This magazine is an entirely independent publication, and it most definitely doesn't reflect the opinions of Birmingham City Football Club or is connected to it in any way. We have no money, please don't sue us.

The views and opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the 'MIB' editorial team.

'MIB' will be produced as a match day magazine! And will be available all around St. Andrews on match day's.

Sellers: A great big slap on the back to all our sellers. It aint no problem in the summer months, but when they're standing on street corners in all sorts of crap weather they really earn their money. Thanks to:- Chris, Ben, Phil, Dave and Sharleen and my self for putting up with England's great weather climate.

Where to buy? Coventry Road (by old Bingo) Cattell Road (by club shop) On corner Cattell/Coventry Road - Cattell/Tilton Road Corner - Tilton Road Turnstiles - Main Stand Side on bridge.

APOLOGY

What is normally the contents page, is now the apology page. For all those Bluenoses who were hoping to purchase one of the new badges. Well, you aint gonna. I've been let down big time by those slant eyed Hong Kong geezers. So, not to promise too much - the new badges will be with me for the next home game. Sorry about that.

Note - the badge advertisement has to be amended. The badges are actually £2.00 each and not £1.00. But you can still pick em up at 3 for a fiver.



A BIT OF AN editorial LIKE ***

It's back league footie after a two week break. Only a couple of weeks in and they have a bloody break 'Why?' all the Nationwide games could have been brought forward to a 1pm kick-off and that would have given everyone time to settle down to watch England hammer the Hun!

But I must say it was quite a night, one that will be remembered by all England supporters for many years too come. That's all done with now, it's back to the important task of getting points on the board, and three today will just be fine - thank you very much.

The team was settling down to a good formation and a style that was pleasing on the eye and the players looked at ease with it. Lets hope the injury too Tommy Mooney doesn't effect the team too much. Just as the 'Horse' was getting into some sort of decent form and what looked like a decent understanding with Mooney as well. Though perhaps he'll carry on his new lease of life to the new partner he'll have to play with until the big man comes back.

would struggle and have a disastrous season. But just look where we are. OK, I know things aren't all roses, and the board really should start to have a little ambition with signings. But again it just shows you that our squad is a strong one which will always be pushing for at least a playoff place. We just need to go that one step further. Go for the top two places and have done with it.

Will TF be given the money to get these two Copenhagen players? The only problem with having a winning team is that the board will, no doubt say "we don't need new players" but if a team wants to ALWAYS get better and progress, they always DO need new players.

Today sees Sheffield Wednesday at St Andrews, we need to put one over them, just for last season. These lot did the double on us in the league. Then next week we're off to the Mances for fun and games. It's a 12.30 kickoff, so get up nice and early - and lets see how far we've come. I'll see ya up at Maine Road.

Keep Right On

It's funny really, now I'm an eternal optimist, but even was was beginning to think that we

Dave Thomas

WHY WE ARE BLUES FANS!!! YOUR EITHER BLUE OR YOUR NOT

From the Rough Guide to English football sums up the true spirit of real Bluenoses -

"...at St Andrews, the club's home for nearly a century, and where the PA anthem 'Singin the Blues' is belted out, loud and proud, by thousands of Brummie voices. The lyrics are sung with feeling, and for good reason - the club's story is as melancholy as anything Muddy Waters could have written, a tortured tale of chances half taken, resources squandered, hopes falsely raised and silverware spurned. Yet still they come, the section of the Birmingham public for whom the club symbolises their city, their background, their life. Forever devoted, forever hopeful. Forever Blue."

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN

Doesn't really seem possible - England 5 Germany 1. The things dreams are made of I reckon. So, in years to come people will say that they can remember exactly where they were when England went to Munich on the 1st September 2001. I will, even though it was just in front of my TV at home. Others I know were there in Munich or down the pub watching it on the big screen. But all English men and women will remember.

All those years of hurt were finally put to rest on a foreign soil, and was it worth waiting for? You bet. The lads played like heroes, all of them. For one second in time the World looked up and took notice of a once again mighty England. Lets just hope this is the start of something big. The start of our country becoming the best in the World. Because WE gave this great game to the World only to see other teams take us over to basically humiliate our players, tactics and management.

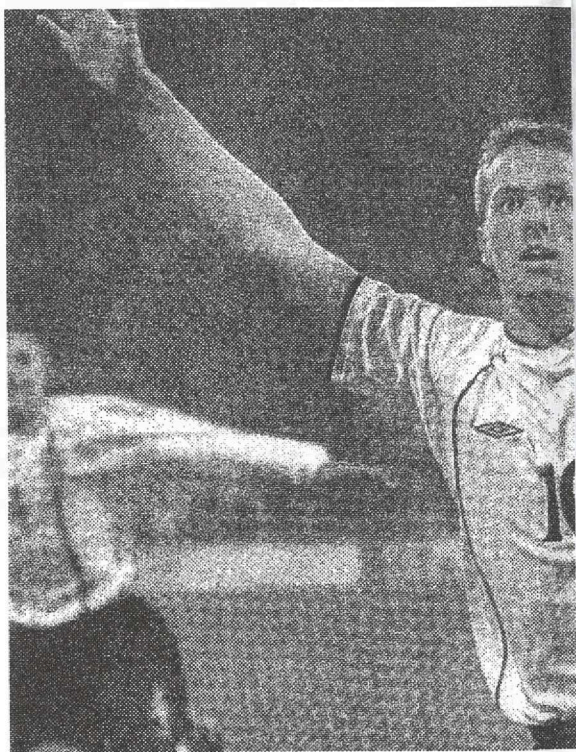
There of course have been false dawns before. But the team had bluffed their way to the finals of World Cups and Euro Championships. Even when Bobby Robsons team got to the semi-final's of the World Cup who could forget the dire crap that was served up in the qualifiers. We can of course all look through our rose spectacles glasses and say how good we were. But if we're honest with ourselves we know we weren't that good. We've always seemed to have certain players in the team to change the outcome - Lineker, Robson, Gaza.

It's now time to move ahead, lets leave the disappointment's of the past behind. We mustn't stand still. OK, lets celebrate and slap ourselves on the back and down copious

amounts of lager. But now is the time not to rest on our laurels - lets move forward and become great again. Like in 66' and 70'.

What, 1970? But we didn't win it then "NO" but we should have. 1970 was the year all this hurt started. We went to Mexico and they all tried to stop us. Arrests, noise outside hotels - they wouldn't let us use our own food and Banks got food poisoning. They did us good and proper. OK, Brazil were the best team by far. But we out played them and really should have at least drawn with the best team in their own back yard.

So, we're in the World Cup finals? Well, not quite. But whether we go through automatically as group winners or through the



WE MURDERED THE HUN?

playoff's, we must now learn to go to the finals of the biggest competition in the World and do the business. To be lucky when things aren't going our way and to put teams away when the chances arrive. To become like the other teams that have had the upper hand over us in the past, easy.

Trouble is, we've become this rather good team with the help of a foreign manager (coach) in charge!!! Gosh, Ahhhhhhh, Horror, Oh no, not a foreign coach. Yes, a non believer, sacrilege. We sure had some horror displays with the help of the English managers the team had. You only have to look at Kevin Keegan's reign. In the European Championship's our players couldn't pass a ball

ten feet? Well, they could, but it always went to the opposition.

So, is it that bad that we've now got a "Foreign" coach? When the rumour went around that the new coach was NOT going to be an Englishman the rebellion among the masses was instant. No way could it work. Some supporters said they not watch an England game again. We had one of our very own players say he'd not support England again while Eriksson was in charge, our very own Martin Grainger and his famous England Tattoo were now nonbelievers. I'm just wondering what he feels like now?

It was only last season I dared to say "does it really matter" if England employed a foreign coach. I was accused of being a "foreign bastard" for this. I didn't say I wanted Eriksson, I just said would it really matter? We have had to put up with a team incapable of winning anything, so why not try something different.

At the minute the coach is going through the good times, everything he does is going to plan. But what happens when the team go on a losing streak. As we all know, even an English manager gets it right in the neck. So what will the foreign bloke get. If nothing else, Eriksson is in a no win situation. So, you have to admire the bloke for taking the job - he's never truly be accepted by every Englishman, but at least he's won over a fair few and has given this nation something to be proud of. A winning England team that plays with heart and passion, and they actually like to pass that little round thing about "NICE"



STOCKPORT - THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A BLUENOSE

BY TONY HADDOCK

anyone who read my pre-season meanderings in the last issue will know how thoroughly depressed I was even before a ball was kicked, so you can imagine how that situation improved after Wimbledon. mmm? But how times have changed.....or have they?

Well actually they have, a bit. I'm not going to get carried away by four wins against teams who were either in division two last year or will be next; but, at least we got four results, which hasn't always been the case in the past. More importantly, one or two players have been showing promise of performances that if maintained, could help support a serious push for promotion. IF is however a bloody big word considering it only has two letters!

Against Stockport, Geoff Horsefield showed once again the big improvement we saw against Millwall and Walsall. I don't know how, but he seems to have been able to stop getting free kicks given against him all the time. Perhaps, he's bribing the refs, perhaps he's blackmailing them with photos of their wives, frankly I don't care, keep it up Horse. Worryingly on Monday, as soon as Mooney went off and AJ came on I thought the horse went out to pasture, back to his annoying habit of hogging the wing leaving AJ to outjump a ten foot centre half as we immediately resort to the long ball game. Nice game plan blues.

Stan and Hoosie have also been showing how they can play to their abilities for the last few games, which is nice! Shame Stan can't keep it up for two halves though, which brings me to an interesting point. How come for the last two

seasons at least we seem to have only got going in the second half, how many times can you remember us getting booed off at half time only to run out easy winners at the end after a couple of subs. Now we have turned it around and manage to look like championship contenders until half time, then in the second half it looks like we have had cocoa instead of tea. Give em red bull Trev! Coz I missed the Southend game I haven't seen a damn goal at the Tilton end yet!

Grainger; the man has turned into a schizophrenic! Just when I was thinking that no is safe in the Olympic Gallery at a G man free kick he goes and puts in a beauty in the second minute. Then nearly does the same again five minutes later. If it's that bloody easy do it every time!!! Grrrrr!

Finally, I don't want to moan about injuries, but what have we done to deserve it. We only made two signings this summer and now both of the buggers are out injured, and it's not even as if either of them was fouled.

If it wasn't so serious, you would have to laugh at how it happens to us every time! They should have a specialist round in question of sport - blues player injuries, for instance, how many of the same position injured at one time, shortest time for a loan player to fall down the stairs, and players who get injured 15 minutes into their debut and never play again. I'm sure you can all think of loads more.

it could only happen to us - KRO

IT'S LOVE - BUT A DIFFERENT SORT?

I, like all (well, I hope so) Englishmen (and Women) love my country. I'm proud to be English, I'm proud to wear the colours of this great nation. I will always support the team that play with the three Lions on their chests. Going to an England game is a great occasion. It's always a big game, whether a friendly or a World Cup qualifier. I'll sing my heart out with the best of them. And when we score I'll jump around and celebrate like a mad man. And why not, it fills me with pride to be an Anglo Saxon red blooded Englishman.

I also love my team, Birmingham City. Since 1968 I've been through some great times, a fair few pretty good times, some not so good times and some down right crap, shitty times. When you support a team you have to take the good with the bad, and in our case a lot more bad than good. It comes with the territory. After a down right pathetic performance and a 3-0 defeat we all go home and sit there depressed as hell. But we dust ourselves down and put ourselves through it all again the week after. Now you tell me that isn't true love? Payers will come, and players will leave. We'll see great goals scored by Blue heroes who will run up to the Tilton and kiss the "Badge" but the week after they're playing for another club. Mangers will come and owners will tell us that there will be money spent and no more slip ups. But what ever happens we support the name, the club and most definitely not who might be playing that particular Saturday. We'll chant their names maybe. But within a season we'll be chanting some other players name. England is my country and Birmingham City are my team.

So, let me tell you it's love - I love my country, and that's most things about it, especially the football side of things. It's love - but a different

sort of love? From what I hear you ask. Well, from my love of Birmingham City, that's what. Some people may say I've got it round the wrong way. But I reckon I've got it just right. OK, so I'm English, but first and foremost I'm a Brummie. Of course you can be a Blues supporter without being a Brummie. But for me the love is for Birmingham as a place and Birmingham City Football Club. Now even this has it's limitations, that's the "Place" side of it. I personally hate the Vile, so parts of Birmingham are not on my "love" list. Trouble is everything isn't 'Black & White' in this world. I like having a drink in the local pub, when I use it there are loads of Bluenoses in it. But on occasions it is frequented by Vile fans. So should I hate this boozer because some Vile geezer has sat in the seat I've used?

Perhaps this is the reason why Birmingham City come first with me. Let me explain. At least when I sit in my seat in the Tilton and go to support the Blues away I know that all those there support the team I love. They're around me, they're shouting, singing and giving encouragement to the Blues. At England games there are Man Ure, Vile, Arsenal supporters. OK, we are all banding together for the cause. But the week after they're more likely to be the enemy.

So when I'm cornered with the question, my team of my country - I'll always come out on the side of my team with my country coming in a very close second. You don't have to agree with me, it's my feelings entirely. As they say "It's a love" thing. But a totally different kind of love. England forever in my blood but Birmingham City forever in my heart? Or is that the other way around?

W H the nati

Pisces



Feb. 19 - March 20 You may have a hunch that your Tatter Whoring skills need updating, and you're correct. Ask an expert for advice, and you'll become better at what you're doing. Ask them how they get their "clients" to "finish" so quickly and you'll make a lot more money in a lot less time, you filthy fucking whore.

Aries



March 20- April 19 Your financial situation could improve. It's not because you're working overtime because you and your Dingle spouse are unemployable; more likely, it's because you'll find something valuable hidden in your underwear, but who in their right mind would want to go within twent yards of that smelly thing. But I'm afraid It's still up to you to earn some cold, hard cash!

Taurus



April 19 - May 20 Reason won't be enough to change your mind today, and with good reason. You'll have suffered a sharp blow to the back of the head and you won't remember much from the entire morning. Don't worry about brain damage though, you Tatters aint got one to get damaged. Maybe you should think about moving, but then again, where else could you move to and feel at home?

Gemini



May. 21 - Jun. 21 An older person will try to tell you something, and you ought to listen. Trouble is, it's body language they'll be using, not words. They'll turn blue and grab at their throat while making all sorts of horrible, wrenching faces. They'll knock plates and glasses off the table and gasp for air. What could it mean? Don't interfere. Watch, and learn from their wisdom and for God's sake don't venture out of your neighbourhood again you stinking Dingle.

Cancer



June 21 - July 22 A friend is having a tough time, but this is good for you. You can learn from another's mistake and besides, you enjoy witnessing other people's misfortunes. You're such an asshole. No wonder nobody likes you.

Leo



July 22 - Aug. 23 Four words define your weekend. Blunt. Force. Trauma & defeat.

ion-wide O P E



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22 Reaching out to touch someone might be more difficult than you thought, especially when you're incarcerated. Isn't that how you got yourself in this mess in the first place Tatter?



Libra

Sept. 22 - Oct. 22 Lazy, fat and stupid is no way to go through life, but why change the habit of a Dingle lifetime.



Scorpio

Oct. 22 - Nov. 22 Tatter, as unbelievable as it may seem, you ARE as dumb as you look. Don't ever let anyone tell you differently.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 You should be using brains instead of brawn to get the job done. That's what you're telling yourself, too. But how? You're too stupid to figure it out, aren't you? You bite the caps off of your beer bottles too, don't you? Like everything else, you'll eventually learn it the hard way. Tatter Retard.

Back to top

Capricorn



Dec. 21 - Jan. 20 True love awaits if you can just make time for it. You deserve to have a little fun just like everyone else, but in your case, you sometimes have to fight for it. Sometimes you have to drug it and kidnap it. Sometimes, when you're done with it, you have to kill it and bury it. See what we're saying?

Back to top

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 19 You may have dreams about the good you'd like to do for society, but today your own private spaces need attention. Not 'spaces' like your home or your neighborhood, but 'spaces' like the ones you keep missing when you take a shower. Maybe if you weren't so fat, you could reach them. Tie a rag to the end of a stick or something and get in there and scrub scrub scrub!



The Teams that will! Won't

MOVERS & SHAKERS - WHO'S GOING DOWN?

So, who will be there, or thereabouts. And which teams are doomed to fall into the second. Read on and find out.

Who's for the drop...

Rotherham - why pick this newly promoted team. You have to start somewhere. When a team comes up they must be prime candidates for the drop the next season. And of the three that came up Rotherham look the least likely to stay in the 1st. I know nothing about them only that they come from Yorkshire and their supporters talk in a very strange language.



Stockport - this is a team that I suspect most other supporters would pick for the drop. They ain't got no money, they've got a crap ground with no supporters (to speak of) but they seem to get out of it every year.



Now could this be because they play the Blues at home, beat us and then go on a winning streak. Every season I say 'this year' we'll beat County at their place and every season we don't. But it will happen one day, and this could be the time. Bye bye County.

Crewe - they struggle, and they struggle, and they keep playing football. They play



football the way it should be played. And to be honest I love em to bits just for that. While the Blues are in the 1st Division I'd love Crewe to stay where they are. It's a nice place to visit. Decent pubs, decent ground and decent people. But there is only so much a team can take. With no money to strengthen they will one day go down I'm afraid.

Grimsby - Another team that struggles because of all the things that have already been mentioned. But again, they keep surviving. The talk is of a new flash ground, but why. They haven't any fans and it's too cold to play football up there. So why bother. They constantly play above their station, fair play to them. But there comes a time when the shit hits the fan and this season they might get it kicked in their faces. The fish might go down!!!



Walsall - Everyone loves them in the West Midlands. Bluenoses have never had a problem with Walsall, unlike the Tatters and Yam Yams. But you have to feel that this step up is a step too high. This season might be different, but they need to bring in new blood. Last time in the 1st they just lost out to the Baggies and their only hope is that there are 3 teams worse than them. I really do hope they survive.



and Can't do it this Season.

MOVERS & SHAKERS - WHO'S GOING NOWHERE?

The mid-table wanabe's? Well, perhaps they don't wanabe mid-table but they aint going up and they aint going down.

Let's start off with the better of the nowhere boy's. They might have thought's above their station. They spend hard cash on a few players, but the truth of the matter is (that's Politician talk) they're just not good enough.

Gillingham - had their first season in division one last year. Did quite well for a first attempt finishing in thirteenth place. The Gills are a tough uncompromising team and on their day can beat anyone. But that day doesn't come around as often as they'd like. But a word of warning, if Gillingham can establish themselves in the 1st for the next few seasons I've got a sneaking suspicion that they might be pushing for the playoffs and a place in the Premier in a couple of years. They could very well be the next 'Leicester City' but pleas don't hold your breath.



Norwich - not long ago they were an established Premier league club, but they've fallen from grace in the last few seasons. If Ipswich are the 'Tractor' boys this lot must be the 'Carrot' cruncher boys (that wont go down too

well!!!) they can produce as many young stars as they like, but the hard part is keeping hold of

them. So, until they manage that, I'm afraid they're mid-table fodder.



Portsmouth - these lot have been through a few managers over the last season or two, this is never a good sign. If they can keep the geezer that is at the helm now and buy a few new players they might be Playoff potential. By all accounts the money is there, but I just cant see em pushing quite yet. So, the 'Chimes' will just have to stay silent for a while.

Barnsley - they sing 'It's just like watching Brazil' but those heady days of Premier league footie are long gone. They might put in a push for a top 8 spot but I just cant see them staying in there with the better teams. They've got a fairly good manager in ? But the money just isn't there to buy in better players.



Crystal Palace - A fallen London giant? Well, perhaps not. But for the last 2 seasons they've struggled for the early parts of the season then all of a sudden put in a spurt and got out of trouble.

There is money to strengthen but I'm dubious whether they'll do any better than the middle



region's this time.

Millwall - Now this is a hard one. When the teams come up from the 2nd division there is always one that somehow get into the playoffs. Preston last season (shite) Watford a couple of seasons ago (shite) and Millwall have that look about them. But? And this is a big but - I'm not so sure they're the team to do it. There might be some fun and game with some of their away games but have they got the quality to get into the playoffs?



That's it for mid-table nowhere boys - not many is there, that's because all the teams not yet mentioned are all playoff and promotion candidates. And any one of em could be in there at the end.

The Main Movers in a Very Poor Division.

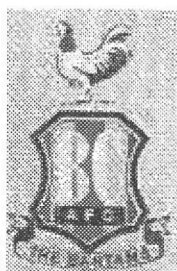


Preston - all us Bluenoses know about this lot. They came up from the 2nd and surprised a lot of people. Can they do it again? Well, the answer to that one is YES. They have managed to keep hold of their better players and are sure to be in the top six for most of the season. I say most because there are so many teams that could do it - it is sure to go until the last few weeks of the season.

The Sheffield Clubs - lets look at these two together. Last season Wednesday had a nightmare getting used to the rough and tumble of the 1st division, and of course



the fact that a load of Premier players left em in the lurch. This season it will be different, I'm pretty sure they will put in a pretty good showing. But what about the Red side if Steel City? United will always be there or there about's. They will put in a push for the playoffs, and I reckon it will be all down to injuries. They haven't the biggest of squads and if they lose any of their three front runners 'Pesh, Nuddy or Devilman' they might just miss out.



Bradford - they've had a good two seasons with the big boys. And most of last season their manger was selling the big money earners for the inevitable drop. They've still got Carbone, but I'm not sure he'll last the pace, he'll either get injured or jump

ship. City will be in there at the death.

Tatter? Sorry - Wolves - the old gold lads might be back in the frame if only they could pick up a few new players. They've gone for a few big money signings, just failing in their attempt to get Macken. But they've had a few seasons of struggle, so this could be the season they get their act together. But as is the norm, they'll just miss out.



Burnley - things in this league must be tight if this lot come into the 'Hopeful' category. Trouble is they could



just do it, and by that I mean get into the playoffs. They are a tough outfit, if they can't play you off the park they kick you. They're an old fashioned team that has been taken out of the fifties and dropped into 2001. Not pretty but effective.

The Main Movers who will be in the shake out

Here is the final run down on who I think will be in the frame come May. These teams are most pundits favourite teams, but you never know - they might slip up along the way.



Manchester City -

What can you say about the Mancs? They did the impossible dream and went from the second division straight thought to the Premier. We all know

what happened though - they got found out and just didn't invest in the right places. They've now got a new manager in good old Kevin Keegan, and believe it or not this little geezer is quite good at getting teams into the top flight. So on that point alone they're gonna be right in there.

Coventry City - Another local derby for all us Midland teams - it could, and might still be a bit of a culture shock for them. But they have just splashed out the Hartson money on the Ginger One and this alone might get them the goals required for a promotion push. And they aint finished in the transfer market yet. The rumours are that Bart Man and Whelan will soon be signing. A playoff place is almost guaranteed but surly automatic is in their grasps.



Nottingham Forest - this club might be the



dark horses of the division, but why? I'm not really sure. They almost got in there last season. OK, so Platty has gone, but that might be a good thing. One thing that might hamper them though is the fact they've had to put every member of their playing staff on the transfer list.

West Bromwich Albion -

they've just sold their best striker, a bloke who

guarantees them 20 to 25

goals a season? So why could

they go up. Well, it all

depends on how they spend all

that lovely cash. If it goes on the

right players they could very well be up there with eh best.



Birmingham City -

lets leave the best till last, that's my

motto. How will the boys in

Blue get on? Now that's a hard

one. If the players can get over

all the upsets of last season you

just never know. Can we do an

Ipswich? I'd like to think so.

But with no big money signings

(yet?) we've practically got the

same playing staff. So all our short comings are

still there for all to see. We're by no means a bad

side, in fact the playing staff at St Andrews just

hasn't been better, not for a long while anyway.

But there is a missing link, no flair - no single

player that can turn a game. Some would say Stan

Lazaridis could, or should be that player. He's a

gifted player to be sure - but he doesn't do it

enough.

So where will we finish? I'm hoping for a playoff

place again. My heart of course says it's automatic

promotion but my head is more on the side of

caution and it's sixth place. Mind you - we're sure

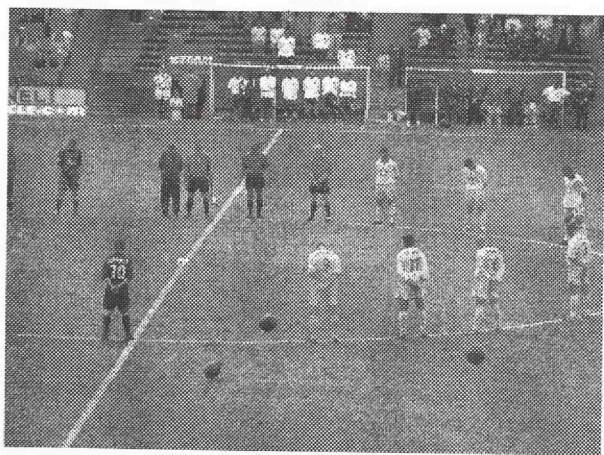
to go all the way in the playoffs - Aren't we?

AWAY WITH

Wombles Away

It's the start of another football season - so it's off too an away game, or two, or three, or four. But things don't seem the same, the usual crew didn't make the trip. Some excuses were valid, some were on principle. But I don't blame em for not bothering, most the Bluenoses who went to Wimbledon wished they hadn't bothered. But it was a bit different at the Bescot.

On the best of day's Selhurst Park is a bastard of a place to get too, but when the traffic's bad it's the biggest sod of a football ground in the Country to get too. As most of you MIB readers know I was selling down at Wimbledon so I took Ben along to help out, and he brought a couple of mates along. I thought I'd try a different route this time, remembering the M25 last season. Thought I was being clever, as the crow fly's it's a great way to get to South London - but crows aint got too deal with traffic lights every 20 yards, and why are they always on red.... I knew it would be busy going the Fulham way but bloody hell.



The minutes silence before
Wimbledon game

I suppose three hours aint too bad as we drew up outside Selhurst Park at around 1pm. Got parked up just 4 minutes from the away turnstile's. Checked out where we were going to sell. Surprisingly the place was buzzing. Not with Bluenoses but Womble fans getting ready for their demonstration against their proposed move to Milton Keynes. Lots of placards and black balloon's. I signed their petition? Well, I think it WAS in favour of a move!?!?!?

Found the nearest boozer, though when told it was only five minutes away and then walked for well over ten I was feeling a tad knackered being weighed down by 200 fanzines in me back pack. As is the norm the pub was filled with Bluenoses. As the three lads aren't drinkers, they wandered up the high street to find an eatery. I got me pint and stood outside. I recognised a Bluenose lad who used to sit a couple of seats away from me in the Tilton, though I couldn't get much of a conversation out of him as he was well on the way to being pissed.

The Womble lads were doing the rounds getting everyone to sign their petition. The seven or so Bluenoses outside struck up some rapport with em. You've got to feel for them if they're moved outa London, but all the lads thought it a great idea. Well, no more south London - sound good to me.

Time was now getting on, so it was a hike back to the ground to start the selling. The gates were still shut, so there was quite a queue outside the Blues end (side) so a fast 20 were sold. Ben went up the road to the other ticket office to sell and I stayed at the turnstile's. The zines went

THE BLUES!!!

Howard Kendall awayday special



Furlong almost gets sent off!!!

pretty good with us selling out by 2.50pm. Saw all the usual faces. Talked to loads of Bluenoses. A few observations while standing outside though. As everyone who was there will testify - that they searched everyone. But what perhaps wasn't noticed was the ploy by the stewards to smell the breath of every five or six supporters passing through the turnstiles. This one Bluenose who was with his wife and kids had was stopped and told he wasn't going in. He demonstrated that he wasn't drunk, but the steward had made his decision and that was that. If he had a problem there was six odd police to

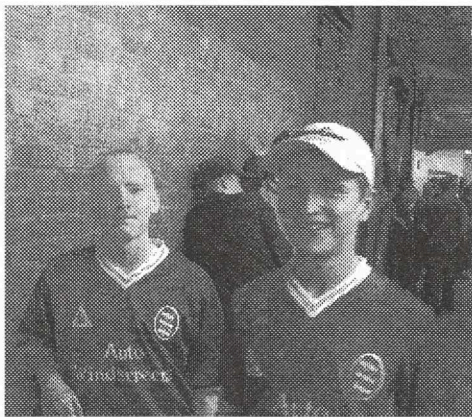
back him up. It was strange standing there and watching the steward tell Bluenose to walk up and down to see if they could walk in a straight line.

So one mission was accomplished (selling out fanzines) now it was too the second mission. Trouble is, we all know what happened? We bloody lost. Should have known really - we aint got a good record against the Wombles. So it was a depressing trip back home. This time though it was

the M25 which luckily was quite. The first game of the season is always looked forward too - this one will be forgotten very quickly.

Walsall Away

Local derbies, can't beat em. Not the biggest of games but at least there aint too much travelling to do. And if you know some locals and the lie of the land a good day can be had - and it was a good day.



Ben (left) who sells MIB and a strange looking mate of his?

Tickets for this one went on sale the Monday before the game. I thought I'd pop down to St Andrews on the Wednesday. I needed to borrow someone else's season ticket for Ben who was going to sell again for me. When I phoned up Chris to organise a pickup I was given the bad news - the tickets were all sold out!!! OH, my God - what the flip am I going to do. A big problem, but there must a way around it? So plan B was put into action. A quick email went off to Steve of the Walsall fanzine "Chasing the Dream" So how do I know Steve I hear you ask? Well, his missus is a Blackpool supporter. And she has just took over the running of the

Blackpool fanzine "AVFTT" which I happen to print. Well, old Steve came up trumps, get me and Ben a ticket in the family stand, mine costing £11, and Ben's £4 - not bad prices them.

So, I picked up Ben on Broad Street in town and we flew over to the Bescot. We were meeting Steve in a little boozer off the beaten track. It was a knock on the side door job, a walk behind the bar and a quite drink surrounded by Saddler's fans. The hand over was done and to spice things up we also talked business. Looks like I'll be publishing the Walsall zine as well. We were told we might not be able to sell by the turnstiles as they might throw us off their land. This is due to the bad feeling between the Walsall higher command and the zine. But we didn't have a problem. Strategically positioned outside the entrances we sold our wares. One geezer in a suite bought 5 zines off me because Bryan Hughes wanted them? And if you bought it you'll know why "nice baby Bryan"

So the work was done, it was now time to get to our seats in the home end. On entering I was expecting a packed house, only to find the family area half empty. Local derby? Mmmm. Me and Ben decided to keep a low profile, thought it only right. But by the second half we couldn't control our emotions. So when the "Stand u if you love the Blues" echoed from the Bluenose masses we were up on our feet, and surprise surprise - there were twenty odd Bluenoses in there with us. So, all in all it was a great day out. And for us it was all made possible by Steve - cheers mate.

One downer on the day though. I always take me camera to snap away all day. But early in the first half a steward approached me and told me if I kept snapping live action he's either throw me

out or take the camera. Now this is the first time I've been warned, and it was all due to the fact that the part of the ground we were in was virtually empty. So cheers "Jobs Worth"

Here's to the next away adventure, what would we do without them - Keep Right On.

Q: What's harder than nailing a dead Tatter to a tree?A: Nailing it to a dead puppy.

Q: Why don't Tatters have check books?A: Because it's impossible to sign your name that small with spray paint.

Q: Why hasn't there been a woman on the moon?A: It doesn't need cleaning yet.

Q: What do you say to a woman with no arms or legs?A: 'Nice tits'

Q: Why did cavemen drag their women around by the hair?A: Because if you drag them by the feet, they fill up with dirt.

Q: What's long, Gold, black and smelly?A: An unemployment line.

Q: What is the difference between pussy and apple pie?A: It's ok to eat your Mom's apple pie.

Q: What's the difference between a German man and his girlfriend? A: His girlfriend has a higher sperm count.

Q: Why is there so little Wolverhampton literature?A: Because spray paint wasn't invented until 1949.

Q: Why do brides usually dress in white?A: Because most kitchen appliances come in white.

Q: What do you do with a one legged dog?A: Take it for a drag.

Q: How do you starve a Yam Yam?A: hide his foodstamps under his boots.

Q: What sits in the corner all day, taking a piss?A: A dialysis machine.

Singing the Blues

unofficial Birmingham city

mad



Battle of the Sexes

If men & women swapped genitals!

Top ten things men would do if they woke up and had a vagina for a day:

10. Immediately go shopping for zucchini and cucumbers.
 9. Squat over a hand-held mirror for an hour and a half.
 8. See if they could finally do the splits.
 7. See if it's truly possible to launch a ping pong ball 20 feet.
 6. Cross their legs without rearranging their crotch.
 5. Get picked up in a bar in less than 10 minutes...BEFORE closing time.
 4. Have consecutive multiple orgasms and still be ready for more without sleeping first.
 3. Go to the gynecologist for a pelvic exam and ask to have it recorded on video.
 2. Sit on the edge of the bed and pray for breasts too....
- And, the NUMBER ONE thing men would do if they woke up with a vagina...
1. Finally find that damned G-spot.

Top ten things women would do if they woke up and had a penis for a day:

10. Get ahead faster in corporate America.
 9. Get a blow job.
 8. Find out what is so fascinating about beating the meat.
 7. Pee standing up while talking to other men at a urinal.
 6. Determine WHY you can't hit the bowl consistently.
 5. Find out what it's like to be on the other end of a surging orgasm.
 4. Touch/shift yourself in public without thought as to how improper it may seem.
 3. Jump up and down naked with an erection to see if it feels as funny as it looks.
 2. Understand the scientific reason for the light refraction which occurs between a man's eyes and the ruler situated next to his member which causes two inches to be added to the final measurement.
- And, the NUMBER ONE thing women would do if they woke up with a penis..
1. Repeat number 9.

THIS WEEK'S DUMB QUESTION

Today's Question:

Is Bob the Builder qualified for his job?

Answer:

Absolutely! Bob's credentials go back years and years. He comes from a long line of noted contractors.

Bob personally built all the houses in Love Canal, New York. He also had the chance to dabble in his hobby, ship building, and designed the hull for the oil tanker the Exxon Valdez. (He wanted me to mention that to you because he hopes to get a construction contract for the company that's going to drill for oil in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge.)

Bob's family has been in construction since the tenth century, when Bob's great-great-great-great uncle four times removed on his mom's side began building the great bell tower in Pisa, Italy. Of course with a name like Vito "Leans To One Side" Builder, you can imagine how that affected his work.

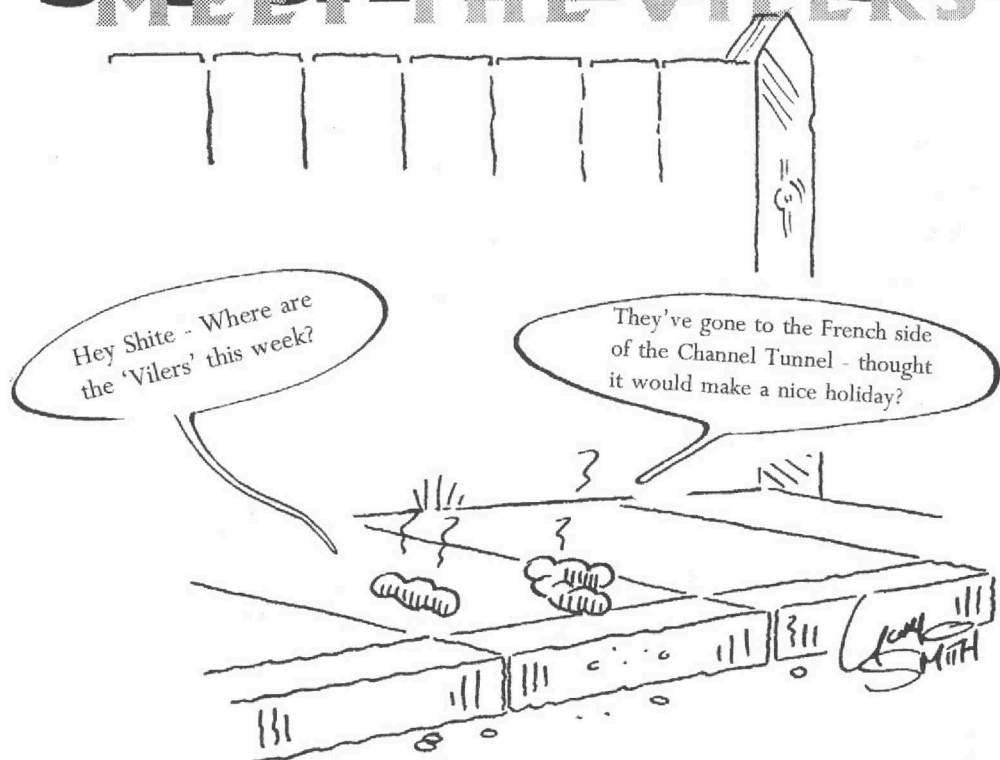
Bob is offering a special on homes this year. It's his "three little pigs" deal. While brick homes are on the market for

\$250,000-\$500,000 in most areas, you can save big bucks if you're willing to purchase one of his homes made of sticks or straw.

SCUM PAGE

lets take the piss out the vile

MEET THE VILERS



GINOLA & GREGORS - HOW THE FALL OUT WENT?

How The Villa Run-Ins Might Have Gone

David Ginola appears to have achieved the impossible: making the public feel some sympathy for John Gregory. The temperamental Frenchman is considering legal action against his Villa boss, saying that the nasty mean man has been horrid to him. Here, we present an exclusive, and indeed entirely made up, dossier of past conversations between the pair that will almost certainly not form the basis of any court case:

On The Training Ground

John Gregory: Morning David. Will you be joining us for a couple of hours training today?

David Ginola: Training? Are you saying I need to train? Why? What is wrong with David Ginola?

Am I not already a genius? This is an insult. I hate you.

Gregory: Have you had your post-training pasta David?

Ginola: Are you saying I am fat? You are a bastard. I am an Adonis. I laugh at your Aston weedy chest and sticky-out ribs and thank God I am a Frenchman.

On Matchday

Gregory: Come on David. The coach is here to take you to the match.

Ginola: Coach? I cannot travel like your insane cattle in a lorry. I must travel alone. You insult my genius.

Gregory: We're wearing the change strip for this match.

Ginola: Impossible. I will not wear it. It makes my bum look big.

Gregory: Listen to that! The crowd are all chanting your name, David!

Ginola: Tut. The noise, I cannot hear a thing. They are all Viler scum bags. They are worts on a pigs arse those Viler Bastard.

In The Changing Room

Gregory: That was a good cross for the goal, David

Ginola: Good? Good? Hah! It was magnificent. It was perfection. The finest ever executed in the history of football. You say Ginola achieves less than perfection? I cannot stand more of these insults.

Gregory: Christ! Have you seen Dion's cock? Fergie was right, it is magnificent.

Ginola: Bah! It is a mere flaccid wrinkle compared to the mighty engorgement of a Frenchman's manhood. He is virtually a woman.

Gregory: How' the hair endorsement going?

Ginola: You mock me. Fool. My hair is worth more than your entire puny team. Angels would desire my hair. Angel probably already does. I wouldn't use your hair to clean my shoes. I bite my thumb at you.

At The Post-Match Hospitality

Gregory: The new Springsteen album's a bit special, eh Gin?

Ginola: The man is a Yankee peasant not fit to lick the boots of Serge Gainsbourg

Gregory: Er, right. I've heard of him. Fond of the ladies, wasn't he?

Ginola: Of course. He was a Frenchman, a real man. Not like all these Vilers... how d'you say?... shirt-lifters. All Vilers are gay. It is a fact that I will not hear spoken against.

Gregory: So where would you recommend for a holiday in France, Dave?

Ginola: Anywhere. An open sewer in France is infinitely superior to living in Aston. You would meet turds more fragrant and more intelligent than the greatest men in the palaces of the mighty in your country.

"Blond Logic"

Fifteen minutes into the flight from Kansas City to Toronto, the captain announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, one of our engines has failed. There is nothing to worry about. Our flight will take an hour longer than scheduled, but we still have three engines left."

Thirty minutes later the captain announced, "One more engine has failed and the flight will take an additional two hours. But don't worry, we can fly just fine on two engines."

An hour later the captain announced, "One more engine has failed and our arrival will be delayed another three hours. But don't worry, we still have one engine left."

A young blonde passenger turned to the man in the next seat and remarked, "If we lose one more engine, we'll be up here all day!"

MERCHANDISE

If it's gear ya want, we got it. In fact, we've got loads of desirable stuff that you'll just have to have. Badges, T-Shirts, Hats, Car Stickers, Key Rings. And none of it contravines the trade description act? So, take a glance at the stuff below - and take your pick.

New BADGES now available



Old BADGES still available

all these great designs are a quid - and if you buy 3 different styles you can pick them up for a fiver



All these badges come in a combination of colours - watch out for new designs which will appear every 3 or 4 home games.

A source inside Camelot, the lottery people, has revealed that a man from wolverhampton was a recent winner in the nation's favourite weekly gamble. The lucky chap was delighted to announce that he had spent his winnings on a new player for his beloved WWFC.

"If my three numbers come up and win me a tenner again," he added, "I'll gladly buy them another!"

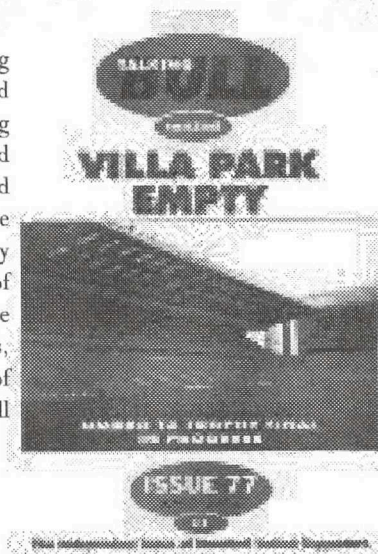
A Brought to you..W REVIEW

Talking Bull - Hereford United

Though not overly laden with humorous content 'Talking Bull' has much to offer to fans of Hereford United and anyone interested in the non-league scene. This long running and popular fanzine covers all the issues relevant to United fans and the quality of writing and presentation is what you'd expect from a top rate publication. I particularly enjoyed the 'Trippin' column which looked back at memorable away trips and 'soapbox' which highlighted the shortcomings of the managerial team. Other useful features included some very thorough pub and travel guides to forthcoming games, match reports (bit of a sore subject in issue 7) and reviews of footie programmes on TV. Informative writing with well argued points makes 'Talking Bull' well worth a read.

Cost - £1.00

P.O Box 2000, Hereford, HR2 &WA



Jim, the Wolves fan, is tired of being called stupid whenever he wears his Duster shirt and he decides to leave it at home. When he goes out. On his travels through the countryside he happens upon a farmer with his flock of sheep.

Jim stops and says to the farmer, "If I can guess how many sheep you have, will you let me have one?"

The farmer says, "Sure".

Jim says, "112."

The farmer says, "That's incredible. You're exactly right."

As Jim is walking off with his prize, the farmer shouts back;

"Hey...if I can guess what football team you support, can I have my dog back?"

NEXT ISSUE
WILL BE OUT FOR THE GAME AGAINST
BURNLEY
ON TUESDAY THE 18TH SEPTEMBER
DONT MISS IT!!!

REPORTS AND OPINIONS FROM **blue re**

Blues 4 Millwall 0

A game of high tension "NOT" which the press had built up into a battle. The war zone didn't materialise. But the boys in Blue sure put in a fighting performance and blew away the Cockney pretenders.

The game was put back fifteen minutes because of late comers. But in all fairness it was just putting off the inevitable. The game started at quite a slow pace in the hot humid weather.

Millwall had the first real chance when they broke on the left and left the Blues defence chasing shadows. The ball was passed across the pitch where it found Ifill. But with the goal at his mercy he fired well over and wide.

The game then quickly became the Hughes one man show, powering Blues into a two nil lead. The first after 22 minutes was engineered by Stan and Grainger. Running into the box un-marked Hughes guided his header well wide of the Millwall goalie.

Stan Lazaridis also got in on the act for the second goal, he fed Nicky Eaden who centred for Hughes to again ghost in and make it 2-0.

What a fantastic start, by now Millwall were looking decidedly ragged. Blues then effectively put the result beyond doubt on the half hour when strikers Tommy Mooney and Horsfield combined to open up a 3-0 advantage. Mooney

fed Horsfield who turned Millwall defender Robbie Ryan before rifling home a low shot for his first goal of the new season.

Hughes then turned provider on the stroke of half-time, delivering a cross for Eaden to head into the corner of the net.

Blues eased off after the break and almost presented Millwall with a goal 10 minutes into the second-half. The Lions should have grabbed a consolation after David Livermore was fouled by Vaesen following a poor back pass from Grainger. With the Millwall fans shouting 'Off' the referee just booked the Blues goalkeeper for the challenge. But from the spot kick, Stadler put the ball to the left of goal but Vaesen got down and saved well. That just about summed up Millwall's day. Nothing was to go right. But in all fairness we were by far the better team

This was a good performance by Blues, with some excellent individual performances from Bryan Hughes, Stan Lazaridis, Nicky Eaden and Geoff Horsfield.

Blues: Nico Vaesen, Jerry Gill, Darren Purse, Michael Johnson, Martin Grainger, Nicky Eaden, Martin O'Connor (Sonner 72), Bryan Hughes, Geoff Horsfield (Woodhouse 90), Tommy Mooney (Furlong 71), Stan Lazaridis.

Subs: Kevin Poole, Joey Hutchinson, Danny Sonner, Curtis Woodhouse, Paul Furlong.

Millwall: Tony Warner, Lucas Neill, Robbie



IN THE PEOPLE THERE...

porting

Ryan, Tim Cahill (Bircham 87),
Stuart Nethercott, Sean Dyche,

Blues 3 Southend 0

The Blues are one their way to the Twin Towers of Cardiff again? Well, perhaps not the Twin Towers but we're on our way - roll on February.

3-0? Should have been more like 6-0 on reflection of the total dominance during the game. We did have our quite periods but with all the chances we created it should have been a goal feast for the 12,000 that braved the hot whether.

Blues took the lead in the six minutes after a sweet run from Stan Lazaridis, his through ball set up Eaden wide on the left. His cross was met by Tommy Mooney who side-footed home for his first goal in Blues colours.

Southend were camped in their own half during the opening exchanges and on 13 minutes a Bryan Hughes' effort was easily saved by Darryl Flahaven.

The score was doubled on the 16 minute mark. Another probing run by Stan opened up the Southend defence. Stan found Martin Grainger on the right, his cross was about to find Mooney when Phil Whelan sliced the ball into his own net. The only Southend effort was a hopeful 30 yarder from Leon Cort, brother of Carl, but his shot was well wide of Vaesen's post.



At the other end Lazaridis curled an effort just wide of the top right hand corner. On 35 minutes Carl Hutchings saw a long-range effort deflected wide for the visitor's first corner, that came to nothing.

Blues came within inches of extending their lead when Mooney's header came back off the bar after Hughes' had seen his earlier shot blocked by Flahaven.

It was now all one way traffic with some intricate passing, with the Blues totally in charge. But Southend were offered a golden opportunity to reduce the arrears in first half injury time but the unmarked Hutchings sent his shot straight at Vaesen from

inside the area.

The second half started as the first half had finished - all one way traffic.

From the restart Geoff Horsfield was presented with a one-on-one with Flahaven but the Southend keeper did enough to clear the danger. Again Horsfield had a chance to increase the lead when he let fly with a spectacular first time shot after some good work by Hughes. Eaden curled an effort just over the bar and Mooney also saw his turn and shot fly well over.

Even Substitute Paul Furlong got in on the act when he sent a diving header straight at Flahaven whilst Mooney's powerful 20-yard shot was saved

by the Southend keeper. Furlong should have done better when presented with a clear chance from 10 yards out but he failed to make a good connection and the ball skewed well wide. Mooney charged through a crowded penalty box before unleashing a firm shot that was well saved.

Will I go on? And the second half was quieter than the first. But it all started to blow up as the game drew to it's close. Firstly the visitors' number 11 Mark Rawle was dismissed for a second bookable offence after a foul on Eaden, which required lengthy treatment. Then with seconds to go some great work by Gill down the right saw a header by Furlong deflected onto the bar by the hand of Southends Leon Cort. The referee had no hesitation in giving the penalty and sending Cort off.

There was almost a bit of aggro on the penalty spot as Purse and Mooney fought over the ball. Mooney won and placed the spot kick just inside the post to round off a good nights work.

The Teams Lined Up As follows:-

Blues (4-4-2): Vaesen, Gil, Purse, Magic Johnson, Grainger, Eaden, Sonner, Hughes, Lazaridis, Horsfield, Mooney. SUBS: Woodhouse (for Sonner 69); Furlong (for Horsfield 69); Marcelo (for Lazaridis 73). Not used: Hutchinson, Poole.

SOUTHEND UTD (4-4-2): Flahaven, Broad (Bramble 72), Searle (Richards ht), Whelan, Cort, Hutchings, Mayer, Thurgood, Webb (McSweeney 84), Rawle, Johnson. Subs not used: Risbridger, Gay.

REFEREE: M Jones

ATTENDANCE: 12,015

OPIN

Blues v Millwall - How much have I been looking forward to this match? Despite my total despondency about our lack of decent signings and grave misgivings about the standard of coaching added to the fact that we were facing bastard McGee's henchmen, I couldn't wait. What seemed like a 12 month wait since the Deepdale disaster was finally about to finish. I know we had a match last week but for one thing I didn't go, and for another, neither did our players, so I won't count that.

To make the summer even worse I have managed to go one better than Martin O'Connor and actually snap my 'Achilles'; so I'm on crutches till the end of time (or so it seems) anyway I hop along to the ground and wait the season proper to start.

Smashing weather, sunny just like it should be at the first match, disappointing looking crowd though, I guess they have been frightened off by all the talk of hooligans who apparently now arrange rucks over the internet and by mobile phone! However did they manage to do it in the seventies?

The match starts and surprisingly we look pretty good! I'm pleased to see Hoosie back in the middle, I know he can be bloody frustrating at times but if you can't give one of your best players a chance at the beginning of the season, when can you? We're passing the ball about and looking comfortable without actually being dangerous.

Just when I think it's looking OK, we lose an easy ball out on the right (forgive the lack of detail on who, I'm new at this reporting lark) the ball gets moved across the front of our box leaving Sadler open on goal. Vaesen moves out to narrow and makes himself big, shit here we go again! But no, the cockney proves to be a true wide boy and blasts it into the Tilton.

This proves to be just about Millwall's last chance of the half. The scare seems to wake us up and the sloppiness disappears from our game. Moving forward we seem to be a constant threat, and I'm really pleased to see the

IONATED



Horse doing what he is supposed to, taking the ball in a position where he can turn and run at defenders, which he does all match long. Mooney shows promise both in the air and on the ground. Did I say they couldn't play together?

Finally we break through with a great free kick move, instead of just letting G man shoot, we pass it wide, Stan crosses, Hoosie, free header bullet into the net. Then the gates just open. Not only do we score another three in the next twenty minutes but we could have had another two or three on top.

Never mind any more details of the match, you will all have read them in the papers, I'm more interested in the team and how we played. First of all; I'm delighted to have been proven wrong, I certainly didn't expect a performance like that. Don't just say it was only Millwall, they are crap, how many crap teams have we failed to demolish over the last three or four years. Remember Sheff W and Wolves last April?

As for players, I thought it was possibly the Horses best game for us, even better than Ipswich. I noticed that he wasn't getting pulled up by the ref every time he challenged, hopefully it's because he has changed his technique rather than because of the ref, we'll have to wait and see.

As I said, Mooney looks promising, I thought his pass for Horsefield's goal was outstanding. He seemed to tire second half but what the hell, that's what we have subs for.

As usual, Purse and Jonno were excellent, I thought they made Claridge and Sadler look poor but I'm sure they will cause problems for other defences in this division. Just ask Norwich.

The two that pleased me most however were Eaden and Gill. They were both given a public roasting by TF last week after Wimbledon but this week they were superb. Not just because Nicky scored one and made one, but because they played together as a partnership on the right. I haven't seen them work that well together before, particularly going forward. Here's hoping for more of the same.

Finally a word on the other new boy. Generally a competent display, obviously not afraid to come for crosses, even though he doesn't always catch them, made some good reaction saves and it doesn't get much better for a goalie than saving a pen on your home debut. (perhaps it could have been in front of the Tilton). Trev, does this mean we don't have to defend 11 men at corners now? You always suggested it was because Benno couldn't catch!

Sorry if this first report is a bit long, I'm just soooo! bloody excited. The new season has started.

By the way, if anyone fancies giving a cripple a lift from Shirley?

ON OUR



On our travels will be a regular feature in MIB. All those Bluenoses who bought the mag last season will notice a few changes. This season (when possible) we will also feature what the "away" supporter has too say about his ground and area. Good travelling.

It's a lovely trip to the home of the Mancs and at the ungodly hour of a 12.30pm kick-off. Who the fuck thinks of these times. So, if you want to get there, wake the fuck up early. This game should be a good test of how far we've come. When the wankers went up through division 2 and the 1st they weren't really that good. And their one and only stay in the Premier proved that point. They got shut of Royle, which was rather nice of them. Two promotion seasons and a relegation one and the geezers out on his ear. But that's football I suppose. And too get them promotion, they brought in good old Kevin Keegan. Will it be a good choice? Only time will tell.

ALL ROADS LEAD TOO?

At this time in the morning, it might be OK. But on the M6 you just don't know. There have been horrendous traffic problems just as you get on to the motorway from spaghetti junction, so it might be a good idea to perhaps miss this out some way. I know I'll be joining it at the M5 junction, but there will still be a hold up even here. So lets get going. Exit the M6 at junction 19, at roundabout turn right onto A556. At the Bowdon roundabout after around 4.2 miles turn right onto the M56. At junction 3 after

6.9 miles where the road divides go straight on with the sign posts saying "Altrincham, Congleton, Manchester A5103" At this point the road becomes the A5103 Princes Parway. At next junction after 1.1 miles go straight on. After 1.4 miles get into right hand lane and turn right at lights. This is now Wilbraham Road. After 0.2 miles turn left into Lloyd Street South. Maine Road is down the side streets on right hand side after 0.6 miles.

There is of course another way to get too Manc Land? let the train take the strain. If you can trust em, why not use em. There must be a train at least every 40 minutes from Brum and it don't take too long to get to Piccadilly. The ground is 2 miles from the City centre. So either get a taxi or a bus. The numbers to use are the 11,41,42,43,44 and 46. As to be dropped off at Platt Lane. Oh, the main bus station is down the hill after you've turned left outa the Train station. And you want a square called Piccadilly gardens. Good luck!!!

PARKING..

In this area it is advisable to get some sort of protected parking. You can park on the streets but do you really want a car with no windows and no wheels when you get back? There are a number of safe places to leave the car. Most

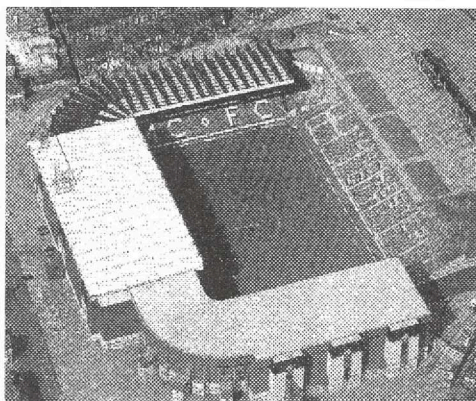
TRAVELS

these are schools, the Wilbraham High School on the junction of Hart Road and Platt Lane. Then there is the Heald Place Primary School at the junction of Claremont Road and Heald Place. You'll of course have to pay.

BOOZE & GRUB...

There are a few eatery's around the ground. In Claremont Road there are 2 decent Chip shops. In Princes Road you'll find Willie's Cafe where a mug of tea and fish and chips will knock ya back £2.00. Around the ground there are the usual mobiles. But one is recommended. It's located at the back of the Kippax Stand.

Pubs are a bit more difficult, but there are two where away supporters can get a decent quite drink (that's if there allowed to open) the Princess in Mauldeth Road West is bloody miles away but recommended for away fans. You can find it along Princess Road. The other is The Sherwood Inn, 417 Claremont Road. All away supporters are welcome in the Manc's Training Complex where they serve Scottish & Newcastle beers. It also has a restaurant. You'll find this in Platt Lane.



THE GROUND..

It's one of those grounds that has tried to be modern, but has failed miserably. All the four stand are all over the place. Even though they're joined on three sides they look different. And that's because they are all from different era's. Then a couple of seasons ago they added the Kippax Stand. A gigantic three story structure. Very impressive, it's just a shame the other three stand weren't. They wont have to worry soon, as the Manc's will be moving to the "Commonwealth Games" stadium.

Two tatters were walking down the street when they came upon a dog lying on the sidewalk, licking and cleaning his groin like dogs do.

The first tatter says to the second, "Boy, I wish I could do THAT."

The second tatter replies, "Yeah, me too, but I wouldn't want to try it."

The other tatter asks, "Why not?"

"Because," the second tatter replies, "I'm afraid the dog might bite me."



THE CRAZY WORLD OF P

Football365 Presents 50 Mad Moments In The Life Of The Greatest Living Englishman in two parts. This week the first 25 mad moments.

FIVE years ago today the English public were treated the finest moment of the footballing career of Paul Gascoigne. With the Three Lions 1-0 up against the Scottish enemy at Wembley Stadium, Gazza set Euro 96 alight by scooping the ball up over the hapless Colin Hendry and volleying it into the net past the helpless Andy Gorm. Game over. Mayhem ensued and the moment still burns brightly in the hearts of all Englishmen.

So to mark the fifth anniversary of this glorious occasion, Football365 presents 50 more moments of mirth and madness in the life of the corpulent Geordie who still holds the title of Greatest Living Englishman...

26) Paid £320 for a Mars Bar in a newsagents in his home town of Dunston, then told the shop owner to spend the change on sweets for local kids.

27) Whilst dining in the prestigious Bedford Arms Hotel in Woburn with a few of his Geordie mates, decided to place his erect member on the shoulder of a diner at the next table. Thinking someone had tapped him on the shoulder the gentleman turned his head only to have Gazza's helmet prod him in the cheek.

28) Took a documentary team to a beautiful Scottish cottage which he informed them was his new place, pretended he'd forgotten his key and knocked instead. When the door opened, told the befuddled housewife inside that he was doing a telly advert and wanted to know if she preferred Daz or Omo.

29) Crashed Middlesbrough's team bus at the club's training ground and caused £310,000 worth of damage.

30) While at Rangers, urinated over sleeping team-mate Richard Gough.

31) Handed £1000 over to Jimmy Five after betting that the burly boozier could withstand a cigarette lighter's heat on the tip of his nose for five seconds. Jimmy cooed twice.

32) After briefly giving up drinking, was advised to find a new interest. Picked beer.

33) Bought a £1000 robot and programmed it to travel into Jimmy Five Bellies' room at the Towers and announce: "Make a cup of tea for me, man."

34) Was banned from Liverpool's Cream nightclub in advance within days of joining Everton last summer, because the Everton manager who run the place wanted him to avoid temptation and stay fit.

35) Prepared for England matches during the hugely important tournament by playing marathon games of tennis in the scorching midday sun.

36) Thought it would be appropriate to wear a blue fright wig before the 1991 FA Cup final.

37) In his time, has agreed to dress as a Roman centurion, a clown, Oliver Hardy and Braveheart for photo opportunities.

38) While his Italia 90 team-mate was at the funeral of Hillsborough, marched into a Sheffield barber shop and demanded "a Waddle cut".

39) When Gazza signed for Spurs in 1989, came down to finalise the deal with a bunch of his Geordie mates. They took over the pub at the hotel in Hadley Wood where Spurs were staying, footing the bill and wreaked havoc. Gazza then-chairman Irving Schollar and began to cry, saying, "We'd like to thank you for the last three days of our lives."

40) Was asked to leave West Lodge Park in London after guests were treated to the sight of a naked Five Bellies swimming across the pool.

PAUL GASCOIGNE

PART 2

duckpond.

41) On his first night in Rome after signing for Lazio, gave his minder the slip, put his shoes by an open window and hid in a cupboard. The minder thought he'd committed suicide.

42) Recorded a video message for a corporate party and signed off with a cheery "Happy Christmas, you f***ing w***ers."

43) Greeted reporters in Rome by standing up, asking for silence, then farting at ear-splitting volume.

44) Told an interviewer that he was so superstitious about the number 13 that he couldn't ever bear to see the numbers 4 and 9 together. Oddly, the combination of 5 and 8 was deemed OK.

45) Shredded England team-mate Dennis Wise's Armani suit "for a laugh."

46) While staying at a Scottish hotel, drove across its golf course in his four-wheel drive Jeep.

47) While reputation preceded him in Italy, the English language did not. Hence, his Lazio debut was marked by a banner which read: 'Gazza's Boys, We Are Here. Shake Your Women And Drink Your Beer.'

48) Conversely, rival Italian supporters once hailed him with a banner which stated bluntly: 'Paul Gazza, You Are Fat Poofa.'

49) After being sent off while playing for Lazio, shook hands with virtually every member of the Genoa side.

50) While staying in a New Zealand hotel, was told there was no bacon for breakfast. Replied, "What, all the sheep in this country and there's no bloody bacon!"

"Secrets for a Happy Marriage"

My wife and I have the secret to making a marriage last.

1. Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant, have a little wine, some good food and companionship. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

2. We also sleep in separate beds. Hers is in Florida and mine is in New York.

3. I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back.

4. I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested the kitchen.

5. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.

6. She has an electric blender, electric toaster, and electric bread maker. Then she said, "There are too many gadgets, and no place to sit down!" So I bought her an electric chair.

7. My wife told me the car wasn't running well because there was water in the carburetor. I asked where the car was, she told me, "In the lake."

8. My wife is on a new diet. Coconuts and bananas. She hasn't lost weight, but BOY, can she climb a tree now!

9. She got a mudpack and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.

10. She ran after the garbage truck, yelling, "Am I too late for the garbage?" The driver said, "No, jump in!"

DIARY OF A YOUNG BLUENOSE

3rd August - The curtain has finally come down on the Bart William's saga - he aint coming. It's the last friendly tomorrow, am I going? Am I fuck - it's down the pub because from next weekend our lives are taken over by Birmingham City Football Club.

4th August - well, the lads went down at QPR 0-1. By all accounts it was a dire display. It's sure to be different when the season proper starts next week?!?!?!?

5th August - the last Sunday of feeling no emotions. By next week we'll all be either pissed up happy or pissed up depressed. Roll on the good times.

6th August - well, the Blues actually won tonight, 3-1 at Hednesford Town. Good stuff hey. One of the lads got the tickets for Wimbledon today, so it's all systems go - it's an early train down to the smoke and a pub crawl to Norwood.

7th August - An old timer turned up at the Blues today - Dave Barnet took over as assistant Academy director, sure is nice to see him back. Wonder if TF will give our new Brazilian trialist a go in the side, he's scoring goal and the lad is built like a fucking barn.

8th August - So the Ginger Ninja looks like he'll be playing his football at Coventry. A sickener to us all. But we'll just have to get on with it and give the Ginger one a good lot of abuse when we play the Sky Blues.

9th August - the new season is now only days away, and there just aint gonna be any new signings. So we're just going to have to get on with it. Hughes signed for Coventry. There doesn't seem to be any injury problems? But there might be at work, course that Villa bastard is winding me and the lads up, we're thinking of locking the prat in the deep freeze.

10th August - Nicky Eaden has been talking of the pressure on him and the rest of the team. He says

there must be no more slip ups or they'll be labelled failures?

11th August - Works out, me wages are in the bank and Football is in. It all starts tomorrow and me and the lads are raring to go. Off early to New St. Come on you Blues. Oh - there no injury problems,

12th August - Bastard Bastard Bastard, that's all I can say about our performance down in London. In fact the whole day wasn't up to expectation. We missed our scheduled train, got on the Tube the wrong way. Couldn't find the pub we were going to meet Dave (ed) in. There just wasn't the atmosphere or anticipation. Let's just say "things can only get better"

13th August - looks like Grainger's getting the blame for our defeat, and his mystery illness. But to be quite far we'd have lost whatever had happened roll on next Sunday and the Millwall?

14th August - there's doom and gloom hanging over St Andrews since Saturday. But it's only one defeat. We'll bounce back on Sunday. Bad news on the injury front though, Curtis Woodhouse had to come off in last night's reserve defeat at the Tatters.

15th August - Don't push the panic button? That's the word coming out of St Andrews - so says Bryan Hughes. And I suppose he's right. It's just that one more bad result and the board will be manning the barricade's I reckon!!!

16th August - It's getting closer to the Big match - the battle of St Andrews. Millwall come to town on Sunday. Our bloody first home games of the season are never on a Saturday now. Pain in the arse. No chance to get rat arsed. Grainger's mouthing off in the local paper, saying his bad start to the season has nothing to do with the interest from Blackburn Rovers. Lets hope he has a good un this weekend then.

**BLUE BOYS HERE BLUE BOYS THERE BLUE
BOYS EVERY FUCKIN' WHERE...**

**MARSTON
GREEN
TAVERN
BLUENOSES**

